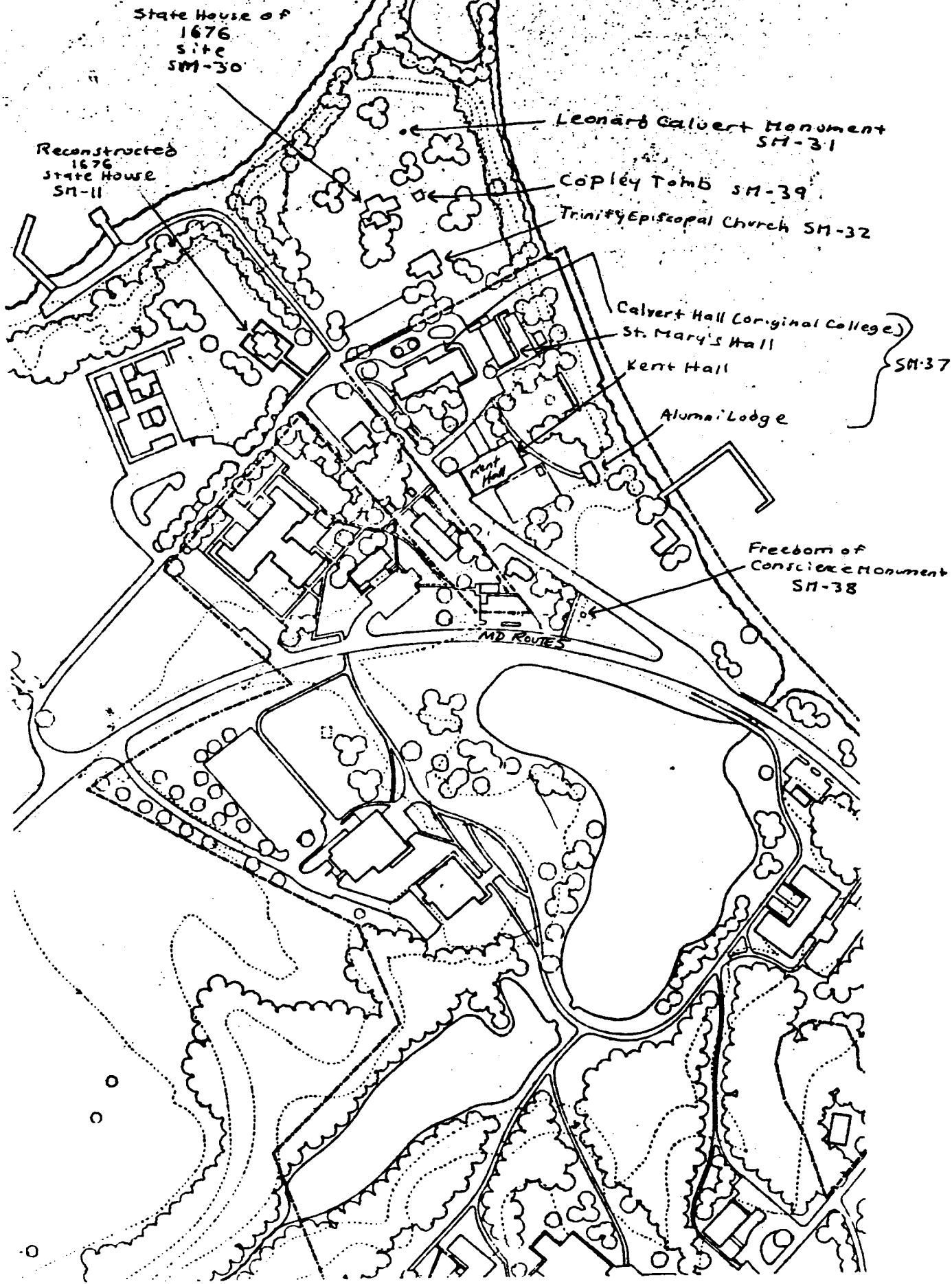


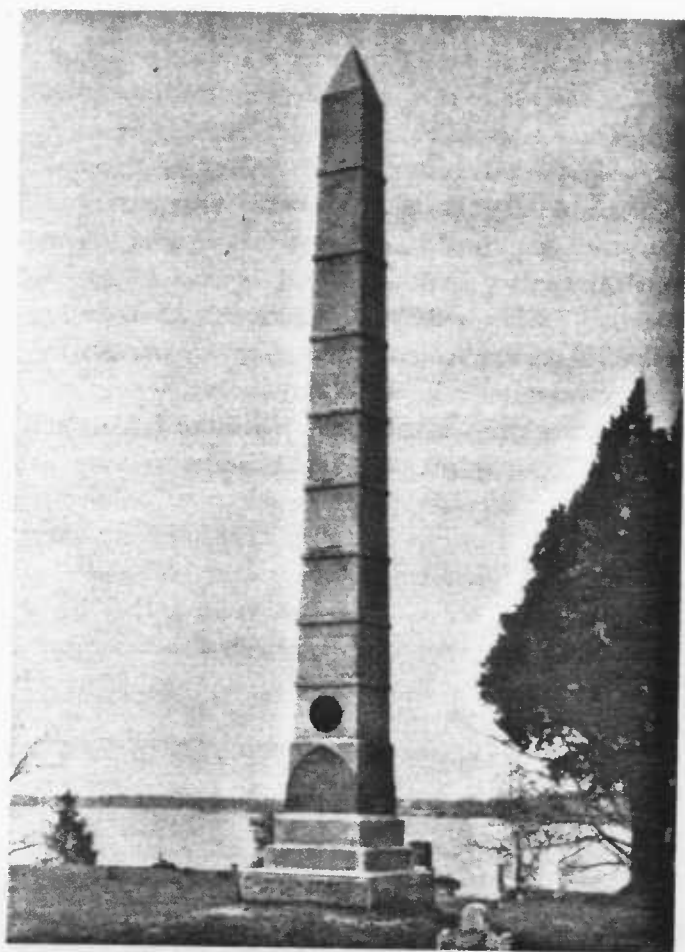
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LEONARD CALVERT MONUMENT  
St. Mary's City

1891

This large granite monument honoring the first governor of Maryland is located in the cemetery of Trinity Church at St. Mary's City. It marks the traditional site, under a large mulberry tree, of the meeting where the first Maryland colonists purchased land from the Indians for the establishment of a settlement.

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St Mary's College  
1/2" = 100 ft.





*Leonard Calvert Monument, Trinity Episcopal Churchyard, St. Mary's City. The 36-foot obelisk was erected by the State of Maryland in 1890, on the site of the "Old Mulberry Tree," to memorialize the founder of St. Mary's City and Maryland's first governor (1634–1647).*

In declaring human conscience to be free from the coercion of politics, Cecil Calvert hoped to end a violent century of carnage that had produced "Fights, Frights, [and] Flights" in the name of religion.

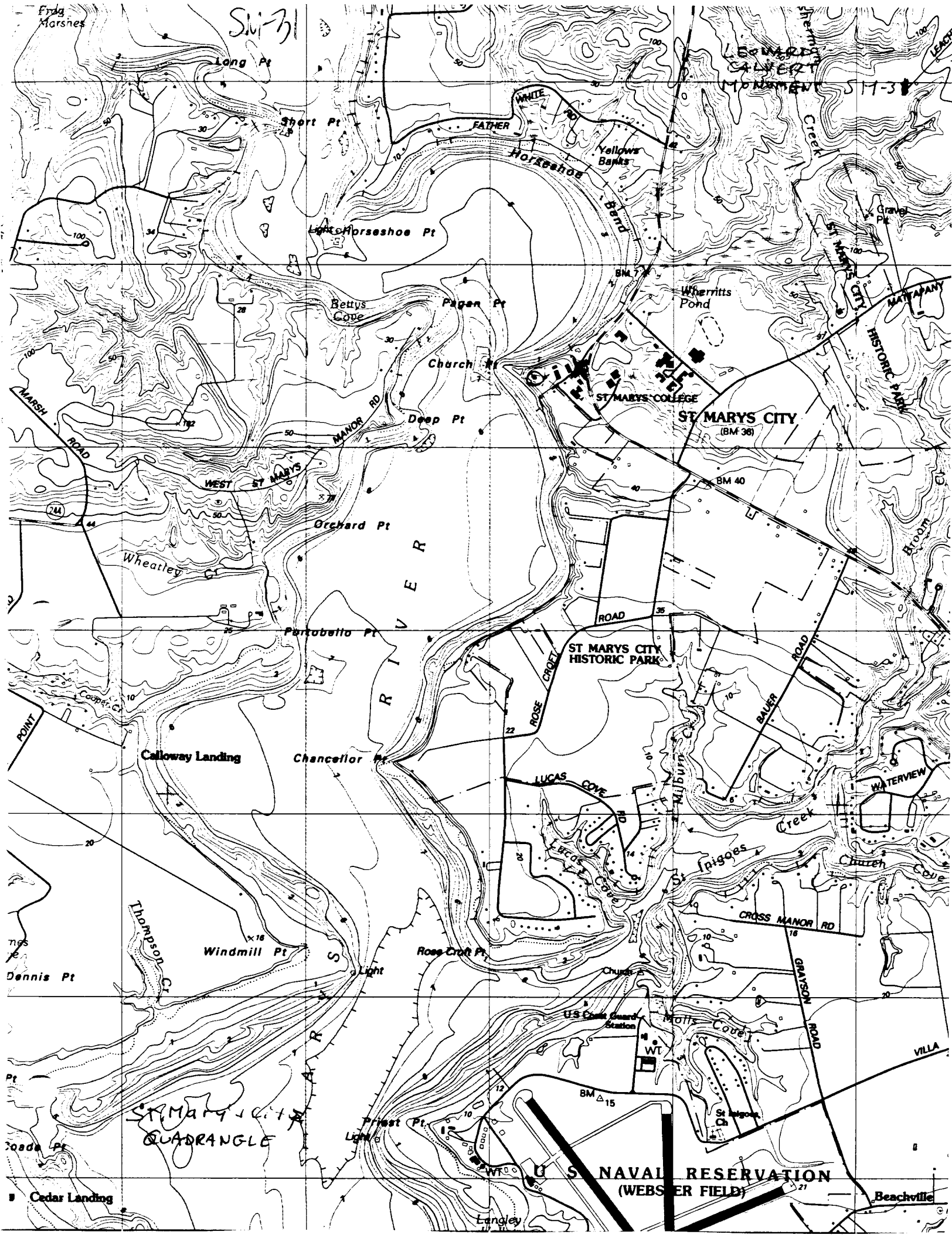
Lord Baltimore's convictions were conveyed to his brother Leonard as the first Maryland expedition prepared to sail for the Chesapeake in late November 1633. Because Catholic settlers would be vastly outnumbered by Protestants in the cramped quarters of the *Ark*, Cecil Calvert thought it imperative that the endangered minority preserve "peace and unity" by "suffer[ing] no scandall or offence to be given" through proselytizing or public worship. His written "Instructions" to this effect explain why the colonists, who had been in the Potomac River for three weeks, did not celebrate a public Mass of thanksgiving until 25 March 1634. Even the most vehement antipapists could not object too strenuously to this commemoration of "Lady Day" (Feast of the Annunciation), which all English Christians then

recognized as the first day of the new year.

Once the colonists had arrived at St. Mary's City, the Calverts sought to preserve interpersonal harmony and intracolony unity through an official policy of nonsectarianism. They encouraged Catholics and Protestants to share a common chapel and denied special religious privileges and immunities to the Jesuits, even though they were major investors in the province. Thus, according to historian Henry Kamen, St. Mary's City became "the first colony in the New World, and indeed in the history of the Christian world, to be established on the foundation of complete religious liberty."

But enlightened principles of interracial and interdenominational cooperation could not alone control the destiny of the province. From the mid- to late-1630s, Lord Baltimore engaged Captain Claiborne in battles legal and lethal for control of Kent Island and the key beaver territories in the northern Chesapeake. Throughout the turbulent decades of the English Civil Wars (1642–1649) and the revolutionary Puritan Republic (1649–1660), military aggression and political oppression exacerbated the problems of the fledgling province and brought bloodshed to the once-hopeful shores of St. Mary's City. In 1642, Claiborne's Susquehannock allies raided settlements only seven miles from the capital and initiated a ten-year war with the Marylanders, during which the Virginia loyalists on Kent Island twice revolted against Lord Baltimore's authority. In February 1645, Captain Richard Ingle, piratical master of the ship, *Reformation*, invaded St. Mary's City in the name of the Puritan Parliament, intending to crush the alleged "tyrannical power" of the Calverts. During the "Plundering Time" of the next two years, his brigands and discontented Protestant servants vandalized Catholic homesteads throughout St. Mary's City. In late 1646, Governor Calvert finally returned to the capital and dispersed the invaders with the assistance of mercenaries from Virginia.

Leonard Calvert died in May 1647 before he could fully restore stable government, and with his passing, the province was plunged into still more crises. The presence of unpaid Protestant mercenaries encamped at St. Mary's City created a volatile situation, which was addressed by a most revolutionary proposal. On Friday, 21 January 1648, Mistress Margaret Brent (ca. 1601–ca. 1671), a wealthy resident of the capital and the executrix of Governor Calvert's estate, appeared before the General Assembly meeting at "St. John's," the home of John Lewger. On a spot that is today located behind the President's House on campus, she requested a seat in the Assembly "for her selfe and voyce allso . . . as his





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Leonard Calvert Monument

West Elevation

J. Kozlay

9/24/94



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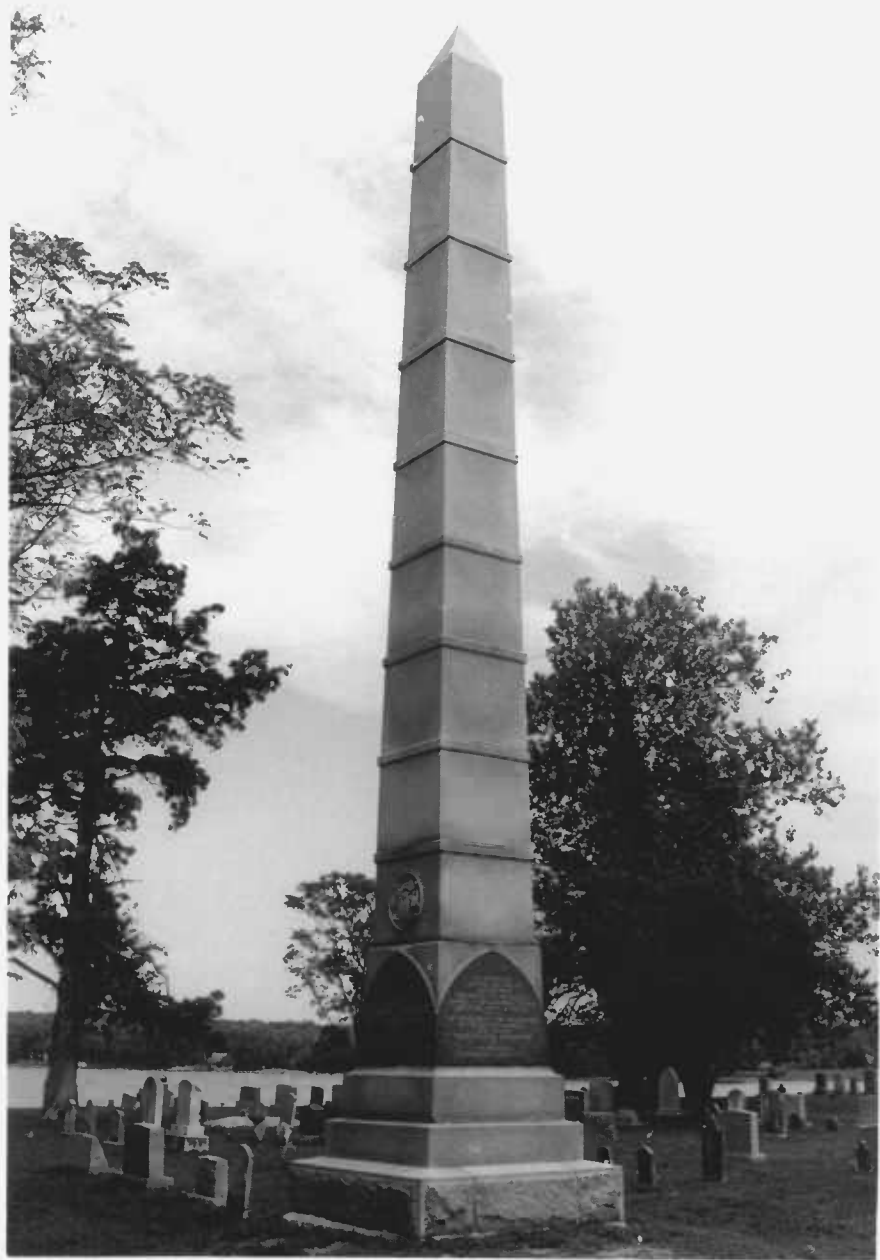
Leonard Calvert Monument

South Elevation

J. Kozlay

9/24/94





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Leonard Calvert Monument

St Mary's County, Md

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